



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS KEY WEST (SSN 722) ✓
FPO NEW YORK 09576-2402

5750

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25 MAR 1988

From: Commanding Officer, USS KEY WEST (SSN 722)
To: Director of Naval History (OP 09HB)

Subj: USS KEY WEST (SSN 722) COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

Encl: (1) Organization, chronology, and narrative
(2) Supporting documents

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) and (2) are submitted.


J. G. HENRY

COMMAND HISTORY
USS KEY WEST (SSN 722)
1987

1. Command Composition and Organization for USS KEY WEST (SSN 722).

- a. Commanding Officer: CDR Joseph G. Henry, USN
- b. Immediate senior command: COMSUBRON EIGHT
- c. Mission: Plan for and when ordered
 - Conduct offensive submarine operations, including offensive anti-submarine warfare, mining operations, and other special submarine operations.
 - Conduct submarine anti-submarine warfare in conjunction with other anti-submarine warfare forces and other operations as required.
 - Conduct offensive strike operations.
- d. Homeport: Norfolk, VA.

2. Chronology.

* 12 September 1987

- Ship commissioned at Naval Base, Norfolk, VA
- Sponsor: Mrs. Virginia Conn
- Principle speaker: The Honorable Robert H. Conn, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Financial Management
- Commanding Officer: CAPT Warren N. Lipscomb

* 15 September 1987

- Ship departs for good will visit to Key West, Florida with 50 dependents and Key West dignitaries on board

* 23 September 1987

- Ship departs Key West, Florida to commence sound trials

* 2 October 1987

- Port visit to Kings Bay, Georgia for exercise weapons load

* 10 October 1987

- Change of command: CAPT Warren N. Lipscomb, Jr, USN relieved by CDR Joesph G. Henry, USN
- Principle speaker: The Honorable Robert H. Conn, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Financial Management

* 18 October 1987

- Ship arrives in Roosevelt Roads, prior to commencing weapon system accuracy tests

* 23 October 1987

- Ship arrives in St. Croix to complete weapon system accuracy tests

* 4 November 1987

- Ship visited by the Honorable H. Lawrence Garrett III, Under Secretary of the Navy and VADM Cooper, COMSUBLANT

* 6 November 1987

- Ship visited by Minister of Defense of Netherlands

* 20 - 24 November 1987

- Local operations

* 2 - 16 December 1987

- Operational reactor safeguards examination preparation training with VADM Cooper, COMSUBLANT riding for the first week

* 17 - 18 December 1987

- Operational reactor safeguards examination

* 19 - 31 December 1987

- Christmas stand-down

3. Narrative.

a. The final phases of construction for USS KEY WEST (SSN 722) were highlighted by systems testing, sea trials, and acceptance of the ship by the U.S. Navy. The ship was commissioned on 12 September 1987 at Naval Base, Norfolk. The Ship's sponsor, Mrs. Virginia Conn, was on hand along with her husband, the Honorable Robert H. Conn, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Financial Management. Secretary Conn was the principle speaker at the ceremony.

b. Following commissioning, USS KEY WEST (SSN 722) set sail for her namesake city, Key West, Florida with 50 relatives of the crew and Key West VIPs aboard. All riders were impressed with the ship and her crew. USS KEY WEST and her crew enjoyed a very warm reception in Key West, Florida. The crew was treated to parties, a softball game, and a fish fry by the citizens of Key West, Florida. Following the port visit, the ship conducted NAVSEA acoustic trials.

c. CAPT Warren N. Lipscomb, Jr., USN, was relieved by CDR Joseph G. Henry, USN, at a ceremony on 10 October 1987 at Naval Base, Norfolk. Secretary Conn was the principle speaker.

d. Following the change of command, USS KEY WEST steamed for the Caribbean to undergo weapon system accuracy testing. The ship's systems and crew performed exceptionally well, properly solving the fire control problems all four times.

e. Next, the ship returned to Norfolk for an upkeep and to begin preparations for the operational reactor safeguards examination. During the inport period, KEY WEST was visited by COMSUBLANT, VADM Cooper, the Minister of Defense of the Netherlands, and Under Secretary of the Navy H. Lawrence Garrett III.

f. The operational reactor safeguards examination preparation period was highlighted by a week long ride on KEY WEST by VADM Cooper, COMSUBLANT.

g. The operational reactor safeguards examination was held on 17 and 18 December, 1987. The ORSE was extremely successful, resulting in an overall grade of EXCELLENT for USS KEY WEST.